

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No. : **10/604,044**
Filed : June 24, 2003
Applicant : Gordon R. Woodcock, et al.
Title : Fuel Cell Flow Field Design

TC/AU : 1745
Examiner : Tracy Mae Dove

Docket No. : 19441-0060
Customer No. : 29052

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed March 16, 2006, please consider the application in view of the following remarks, which begin on page 2 of this paper.

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith.

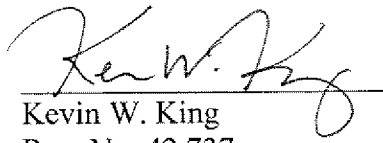
Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending. The Office Action divided the claims into two groups: Group I, claims 1-12, 19, and 20, drawn to flow field plates and fuel cells comprising a flow field plate; and Group II, claims 13-18, drawn to methods for sizing a flow field path in a flow field plate. Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute Group I, claims 1-12, 19, and 20.

Applicants traverse because Groups I and II are sufficiently related that search and examination of the claims together would not be an undue burden. For instance, Claim 1 (Group I) includes a flow field path which has “a width, depth, and length such that a molar flow rate of reactant that enters said at least one flow field path is proportional to an area serviced by said at least one flow field path” and the method of claim 13 (Group II) includes “sizing a cross sectional area and length of said flow field path so that a molar flow rate of reactant that enters said flow field path is proportional to the area serviced by said flow field path.” In view of this common feature, the claims of Groups I and II are sufficiently linked or related such that search and examination of all claims together in one application would not present an undue burden.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn and that examination of claims 1-20 proceed on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: **April 12, 2006**
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